

Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

To: Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 28th March 2011

Subject: Area Leader's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:
 Adel & Wharfedale
 Guiseley & Rawdon
 Horsforth
 Otley & Yeadon

Ward Members consulted
 (referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Outer North West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2010/11. The Area Delivery Plan is the key strategic document produced by the Area Committee and the local expression of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Area Committee functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2010. The report is formatted under the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan for this Area Committee was agreed by Executive Board in July 2010 together with the Area Committee functions and enhanced roles.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 **Environmental Services Delegation** - Further to the report submitted to the last Area Committee, the following provides a brief update on the progress towards achieving the delegation of environmental services from June/July 2011.

- 3.2 Work is progressing on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for each Area Committee, with a generic template being agreed by Area Chairs on 11th February. A first draft of the Outer North West Area Committee SLA will be shared with Members at a workshop scheduled to take place on 30th March, 2-5pm, to which you will have received an invitation on 31st January. To inform the detail of the SLAs, service resources have been allocated across the City on a wedge basis, detail of which will be available at the March workshops, if not already shared with Members. Members will have further opportunity to input and comment on their SLA prior to the final version being presented for approval at the June/July Area Committee.
- 3.3 Appointment of the three Locality Manager posts, who will manage service delivery to meet the requirements of their respective area's SLAs, is due to take place in March. Area Chairs will be involved as part of the recruitment process for the posts, following a similar format as the recruitment of the Area Leaders. It is anticipated the appointments will be agreed by early April.
- 3.4 At their last meeting, Area Chairs discussed the potential roles of Deputy Area Chair, Environmental Champion and Environment Sub-group. Presently, some Area Committees have one or more of these roles, whilst others have none. It was agreed that whilst the roles will remain informal, i.e. have no decision making authority, they will be a valuable mechanism for dealing with the SLA and service delivery matters in a timely manner between formal Area Committee meetings. With regard to the function that a sub-group could undertake this would be especially relevant prior to and during the initial stages of the delegation. Once the delegation is in place and effective then local arrangements can be made as to how to deal with operational issues and the SLA, agreed as a wedge and/or between the Area Committees and their Locality Manager. In some cases the sub-group may be a time limited 'task and finish group', in other areas the sub-group may fulfil a more ongoing role of overseeing the SLA outside of formal Area Committee business.
- 3.5 **One Stop Centres** – following discussions at the last Area Committee meeting regarding the proposed relocation of One Stop Centres within the Guiseley & Rawdon, Otley & Yeadon and Horsforth wards from the beginning of the financial year, the Area Leader has commenced a dialogue with the Chief Customer Services Officer to determine what the available options are. This has included:
- understanding the usage of each centre i.e. where customers are travelling from, peak hours and customer volumes at each of the current centres;
 - potential site options discussed with elected members and their potential suitability and;
 - Understanding the financial context for future arrangements including proposed revenue costs at each site and any potential capital investment needed.
- 3.6 In addition, the Chair wrote to the Chief Customer Services Officer following the last meeting expressing concern that there had been no prior consultation with members regarding the proposed move. A request was made for discussions to take place with Elected Members before any financial decisions are taken. Discussions with the Area Leader have been supportive of exploring appropriate local solutions and

reviewing timescales to ensure that adequate local dialogue takes place before any final decisions on the new locations.

- 3.7 **Holt Park** – Following a complaint received regarding an untidy area close to the Holt Park Shopping Centre a number of service areas became involved in trying to identify the owner of the land and therefore who was responsible for ensuring the area was tidied up. In doing so, this highlighted the difficulty of co-ordinating effective environmental services in sites of multiple ownership. A meeting has taken place with the Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment and senior staff to look at options for using the Holt Park site as an opportunity to establish a more integrated approach to environmental services delivery. Initial discussions have also taken place with local partners and service providers. There is both a commitment to the project and senior leadership support for working differently. There is also the opportunity to involve the local active tenants group in developing solutions going forward.
- 3.8 A task group is being established involving partners such as WNW Homes, Parks and Countryside and Streetscene. This group will:
- Share current service delivery arrangements (who, when, frequency);
 - Map the current delivery routes;
 - Understand any local intelligence that impacts on the environment (e.g. certain times/ days etc);
 - Look at the easy opportunities for integrating or/ aligning the teams activity;
 - Explore any potential lead partner model where one service leads on all environmental streetscene activity;
 - Identify and better understand some of the more challenging barriers to integration which this particular example might expose and feedback to the Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment.
- 3.9 The work will be facilitated by the WNW Area Management and work closely with the Environment & Streetscene sub group and appropriate local ward members.
- 3.10 **Operation Champion** – an operation was held in Holt Park in December focusing on anti-social behaviour. Results of the operation were circulated to Members and include: a litter pick by pupils at Ralph Thoresby School, door knock and leaflet drop promoting target hardening in the Holddales, 3 fine default warrants executed (2 arrests and 1 paid), 1,088 automatic number plate reads with 3 searches and 1 stop, ASB housing visits were conducted on properties in the Holddales in conjunction with a letter drop, WNW Homes cleared a number of areas of rubbish and litter and the Police undertook evening licensing visits to the Eyrie, Lawnswood Arms and High Farm.
- 3.11 **CASAC Burglary Reduction** – Members approved new funding of £40,000 from the Wellbeing budget at the November area committee meeting for another year of operation of the burglary reduction scheme. This project has now been match funded with £10,000 from WNW Homes.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Outer North West is administered through the West North West Leeds area management team.
- 4.2 Well being projects develop from Outer North West's Leeds Area Delivery Plan and through consultation with Area Committee members. The plan helps to fulfil the Council's Corporate Plan objectives by aiming to create better neighbourhoods and confident communities.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is supplied via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.
- 5.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments mainstream budgets, and external partner agencies e.g. the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected by the fact that the Area Committee's role here is to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects here e.g. area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The functions and roles of the Area Committee aim to:
- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
 - Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between ward members and their communities.
 - To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Outer North West Area Committee members are requested to:
- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised
 - suggest items for inclusion on future agendas

Documents referred to in this report:

None